PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

09-10

ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL

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This annual report is also available in electronic format from the Ministry's website at **www.justice.gov.sk.ca**.

Letter of Transmittal – Minister

The Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart
Lieutenant Governor, Province of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

Our province is strong and resilient. Our Government's approach is strong and steady. Justice, fairness and accountability remain key components in our Government's vision of a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, where people can raise a family, carry on business and experience a high quality of life. Our Government is fostering that vision with a plan that is more efficient and that operates with fiscal prudence, innovation and integrity.

As an integral part of government, the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General remains accountable in delivering on our commitments. Therefore, I am pleased to report that the Ministry has aligned with the Government's vision and goals in developing strategies and actions that will help achieve economic growth and security, and keep Government's promises.

While I am committed to Government's corporate values and principles, I am responsible for ensuring that the Ministry is managed with integrity and professionalism. To this end, we are engaged in a number of initiatives. We are implementing legislation in areas of interest to investors and consumers. In conjunction with counterparts in other provinces, we are working to strengthen partnerships to achieve long-term economic goals and to pursue federal supports to reduce the impact of negative activity, such as organized crime, gangs and fraud. There are plans in place to improve access to justice for children and families, and improve services to victims. To ensure that our justice system addresses the needs of these communities, we are partnering with First Nations and Métis organizations. To ensure that programs and services are delivered and managed according to best practices, we are reviewing and reforming many of the systems we use in areas such as maintenance enforcement, collection of money judgments, courts and corrections information databases, and community justice programming.

Examining programs and services to provide the most effective and efficient delivery possible is a key priority for all ministries and an activity that will be reported on as results are achieved. This annual report communicates our progress to the Legislature and to the Saskatchewan people. Therefore, this report is an important accountability measure that can help inform future planning and resource allocation in the coming years.

I respectfully submit the annual report of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010.

D R Morgan

Don Morgan, Q.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Letter of Transmittal – Deputy Minister

The Honourable Don Morgan, Q.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Dear Sir:

As Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General, I acknowledge the responsibility of my office for the accuracy and reliability of the information that is contained in the 2009-10 Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General.

I take very seriously the accountability that my office holds for the financial administration and management control of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. Therefore, in recognition of its responsibility to the Legislature and to the Saskatchewan people, my office has taken every reasonable step to follow good governance practices in compiling and relaying the information contained in this annual report.

Any significant caveats or limitations in the supporting information that might reasonably influence the judgment of readers will be reported in the applicable section of the annual report. Where information could be subject to interpretation embedded in the reporting, such interpretation reflects the best judgment of the reporting unit's leader.

I have the honour of submitting the annual report of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010.

Gerald Tegart
Deputy Minister of Justice and
Deputy Attorney General

Introduction

The 2009-10 Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General presents the Ministry's activities and results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010. It reports on public commitments made and other key accomplishments of the Ministry.

With the release of the Ministry Plan for 2009-10, results are provided on the publicly committed strategies, actions and performance measures identified in the Plan. This report also demonstrates progress made on Government commitments as stated in the Government Direction for 2009-10, the Minister's Mandate Letter, throne speeches, and other commitments.

The 2009-10 Annual Report sets the stage for future planning and budget processes by providing an opportunity to assess the accomplishments, results and lessons learned, and by identifying how to build on past successes for the benefit of Saskatchewan people.

Alignment with Government's Direction

Work undertaken by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General in 2009-10 was managed with integrity and professionalism and aligned with the Government's vision for Saskatchewan and the three goals – growth, security and promises kept.

Our Government's Vision

A secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing a high quality of life for all.

Government's Goals

- Sustain Economic Growth for the benefit of Saskatchewan People, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.

- Secure Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family where people are confident in their future, ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit from the growing economy.

- Keep Government's Promises and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General supports the achievement of Government's three goals by working towards reducing crime and improving public confidence in the justice system, providing legal and personal assistance to those most vulnerable in society, enhancing the infrastructure and improving efficiency of the criminal justice system, increasing protections for investors and consumers, delivering on public commitments, strengthening relationships and working with other ministries and organizations toward the prospect of a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General provides legal services and justice policy advice to Government in order to protect the legal rights of citizens and to promote social and economic order for Saskatchewan residents. The Ministry provides support for the courts system, prosecutorial services, civil law services and marketplace regulation. The Ministry is working to ensure that anti-crime legislation and penalties are effective and will support the federal government's efforts to toughen sentencing.

On July 1, 2009, the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission was established as a self-funded special operating agency to enhance enforcement and compliance activities, including ensuring adequate processes are in place to investigate the complaints of public investors.

A new Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Unit was established in the Community Justice Division to support the development, delivery, funding and licensing of programs to address interpersonal violence and abuse.

Ministry employees work throughout Saskatchewan with other ministries, governments and community partners to achieve the Ministry's goals. The 2009-10 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) budget was 891.1 FTEs, with actual FTE utilization of 966.0 (74.9 FTEs over budget). Additional staff members were required to address workload pressures in Courts and Public Prosecutions.

Ministry activities are organized into six main divisions: Community Justice, Public Prosecutions, Courts and Civil Justice, Civil Law, Public Law and Regulatory Services. A brief description of each of these areas is provided under separate headings below.

The Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch supports the Minister and all divisions in the Ministry in corporate, federal/provincial and inter-agency policy and justice relations. Its focus is criminal law policy, family law policy, youth justice policy and Aboriginal policy. It helps bring about criminal, youth and family justice legislative changes and initiatives. The Branch also helps with program review. It evaluates ministerial programs or initiatives, performs statistical analysis and research on behalf of the Ministry and supports activities that help the Ministry gauge how well it is doing.

The Corporate Services Branch supports the Minister and all divisions in the Ministry by providing financial, managerial, and administrative support to senior management and operational areas of the Ministry.

The ministries of Justice and Attorney General, and Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (CPSP) share the services of Communications, Corporate Services, and Information Management Services.

Community Justice Division

The Community Justice Division provides programs and services that respond to the needs of individuals and communities for increased safety and involvement in the provision of justice services. It supports the development of community-based services; offers alternative measures and crime prevention programs; funds the Aboriginal Courtworker Program; coordinates Aboriginal and northern justice initiatives; funds community programs that address interpersonal violence and abuse; supports the Public Complaints Commission; and provides for coroners investigations.

The Community Services Branch coordinates the development of a province-wide restorative justice strategy for adult offenders. It also administers and funds Aboriginal community justice initiatives and funds the Aboriginal Courtworker Program. The Aboriginal and Northern Justice Initiative Branch develops Aboriginal and northern policy that supports community development and justice reform. The Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Unit provides funding for community-based family violence, sexual assault and related services. The Public Complaints Commission investigates and reviews complaints against the police to ensure both the public and police are guaranteed a fair and thorough investigation of a complaint. The Coroners Branch administers a province-wide system in which coroners conduct investigations on all accidents and unnatural deaths, and make recommendations to prevent similar deaths.

Public Prosecutions Division

The Public Prosecutions Division represents the interests of the general public in the criminal justice system. It provides legal advice to Government and many law enforcement agencies. Prosecutors assess investigation results to decide if there is enough evidence to prosecute a violation of the law and whether the public interest in that prosecution justifies the outlay of public funds. The Public Prosecutions Division also has a large role in training law enforcement officials, such as police.

Courts and Civil Justice Division

The Courts and Civil Justice Division provides judicial and operational support to the court system. This Division produces transcripts and provides enforcement services for legal judgments through the Sheriff's Office. It offers maintenance enforcement and other family justice services to help parents and children deal with the difficulties of family breakdown. The Division licenses Commissioners for Oaths, Notaries Public and Marriage Commissioners. It also provides services to help resolve disputes outside the court system.

Civil Law Division

The Civil Law Division provides legal services to the ministries, agencies, boards and commissions of the Government of Saskatchewan.

Public Law Division

The Public Law Division provides legal services to Government. These services include providing advice with respect to Aboriginal law, trade law, constitutional law, and the legal, policy and technical aspects of legislation. This Division publishes and distributes legislation, regulations and other government publications through the Queen's Printer.

Regulatory Services Division

The Regulatory Services Division provides administrative and other support services to a number of independent boards and commissions assigned to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, including the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission, the Provincial Mediation Board, the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission. The Division provides policy advice related to financial services issues, consumer protection and other regulatory matters, and participates on a number of related federal/provincial/territorial task groups and initiatives. Information about the operations of the Provincial Mediation Board and the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission is provided in the appendices to this report.

The Division includes the Consumer Protection Branch, which licenses individuals and businesses in a number of regulated sectors; provides enquiry, complaint handling and investigative services; manages the film and video classification system; operates insolvent cemeteries; and has oversight responsibilities for funeral and cremation services. The Branch provides information and assistance to the public and businesses on consumer matters, and also acts directly for members of the public who are unable to protect themselves.

The Corporations Branch operates the province's corporate registry, which incorporates legal entities through which business or non-profit activities are conducted; maintains a registry of approved names for the protection of businesses and to prevent confusion among the public; provides information to the public on the existence, location, ownership and control of entities; and enforces registration and compliance requirements.

The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee protects the interests of people who are unable to manage their own financial affairs. Its primary functions are to protect the property rights of children, administer the property and finances of adults who are incapable of managing their own affairs and administer the affairs of deceased persons.

The Office of Residential Tenancies adjudicates disputes between landlords and tenants arising from residential tenancies. The Office also provides information to the public and guidance to landlords and tenants to resolve disputes. Further information about the Office is provided in Appendix B: Boards and Commissions.

The Division also provides information management services to the Ministry through the Information Management Branch, which is shared with the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing. Services include support to program areas in the management of information technology (IT) services and use of IT, access and privacy services and records management.

The Access and Privacy Branch provides leadership and advice on access and privacy issues to Government and local authorities; works with access and privacy officials to help with specific issues and to provide support; develops training programs; and assists with education of public sector employees. It also supports Government's efforts to improve privacy protection.

The annual reports of the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission, the Public Guardian and Trustee, and the Access and Privacy Branch are available at **www.justice.gov.sk.ca**.

Key Partners

To achieve our major commitments, we need the participation of our key partners. These partners include federal, municipal, and First Nations and Métis governments. Collaboration with the federal government is essential, particularly with respect to criminal justice and sentencing reform. Partnership with the federal government is also essential in matters concerning First Nations peoples, and in cost-sharing or contribution agreements. Our relationship with other justice partners and human services ministries and agencies is also crucial in developing a collaborative approach to dealing with crime, its underlying causes and the legal service needs of individuals.

The table on the following page outlines the main functions of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and lists the partners required to ensure that we achieve our key commitments.

Main Functions of Ministry of Justice and Attorney General	Partners Required to Achieve Key Commitments
Administration and delivery of justice	
• Prosecuting offences under the *Criminal Code*, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and provincial statutes • Providing civil legal services to Government • Operating the Provincial Court, Court of Queen's Bench, and Court of Appeal (except for the appointment of superior court judges) • Recognizing and responding to the needs of victims of crime	• Judiciary • Federal Department of Justice • Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing • Police Services • Provincial/territorial Justice ministries and agencies • Defence bar, including Legal Aid • Community justice agencies, including Aboriginal service delivery agencies • Aboriginal courtworkers • Municipal and First Nations and Métis authorities involved in justice issues
Protection of basic legal rights and relationships	
• Protecting and managing the estates of dependent adults or minors through the Public Guardian and Trustee • Operating the provincial coroners system • Registering and/or licensing all corporations and entities that conduct business in the province • Enforcing maintenance orders • Regulating consumer and marketplace relations	• Private bar • Police • Business organizations • Consumer organizations • Federal/provincial/territorial authorities exercising similar responsibilities
Other Justice functions	
• Developing alternative mechanisms to resolve disputes outside the courts through legislated initiatives and education • Administering *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* • Providing legal publications through the Queen's Printer Revolving Fund • Operating the Marriage Unit • Supporting access to public records and privacy protection	• Police • Mediation, arbitration and collaborative law organizations • Federal/provincial/territorial authorities exercising similar responsibilities

Progress in 2009-10

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General supports Government's goals of Growth, Security and Promises

Sustain Economic Growth for the benefit of Saskatchewan People, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development

Increase protections for investors and assure the integrity of Canada's capital markets

Results

- Legislation to establish the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission as a self-funded special operating agency was proclaimed in force on July 1, 2009. This will allow the agency to enhance enforcement and compliance activities, including ensuring adequate processes are in place to investigate the complaints of public investors.

- In June 2009, stakeholders and interested parties were consulted with respect to proposed regulations for mortgage brokers that will protect consumers needing mortgage financing. The Regulations were passed and proclamation of the Act is expected in fall 2010.

- In order to provide appropriate regulatory responses in the financial services sector to address the impact of the current financial market situation, the following legislative amendments have been put forward:

  - Amendments to *The Securities Act* and *The Securities Regulations* to implement measures designed to harmonize and strengthen the regulation of capital markets across Canada. These amendments introduce harmonized registration requirements that will mirror legislation in all participating provinces and territories. The Act will now allow market participants to register in any participating Canadian jurisdiction and have that registration recognized in Saskatchewan. Conversely, participants registering in Saskatchewan will have that registration recognized in other participating Canadian jurisdictions.

  - Amendments to *The Pension Benefits Regulations* to grant sponsors of defined benefit pension plans temporary relief from solvency deficiency payments that would otherwise be required under the Act. Most Canadian provinces have announced temporary solvency relief for defined benefit plans.

Promote a favourable business environment and better protect consumers by improving legislation and educational programming

Results

- Actions to improve provincial legislation for business and consumers included the following:

  - *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*, regarding board membership qualifications and Prairie Central provisions, will receive Third Reading and be proclaimed in 2010-11.

  - Amendments to *The Residential Tenancies Act* came into force in December 2008, to restrict rent increases to once every six months, and require landlords to provide six months' notice of increases. On June 1, 2009, further provisions with respect to evictions and streamlining the process for a landlord to apply to keep any or all of a tenant's damage deposit came into effect. These amendments were made in response to the Task Force on Housing Affordability. (2008 Throne Speech)

  - *The Ticket Sellers Act* received Second Reading in 2009-10 and will be proclaimed in force in 2010-11. It will improve public protection in ticket sales transactions by increasing transparency and fairness with respect to sales. (2009 Throne Speech)

- The Statute Revision Project was discontinued March 31, 2010, due to budget constraints. The project was intended to rewrite, update and renumber all statutes and regulations. Currently, the Queen's Printer will continue to provide access to up-to-date electronic versions of provincial legislation.

- *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* was tabled in the Legislature on December 2, 2009. Under the proposed Act, which will make the seizure and sale of assets more efficient, creditors' judgments will be recorded in a province-wide electronic registry. Once a judgment is registered, the Sheriff's Office can be directed to seize and sell property of the judgment debtor in order to satisfy the judgment. The proceeds of the sale will then be shared among registered judgment creditors.

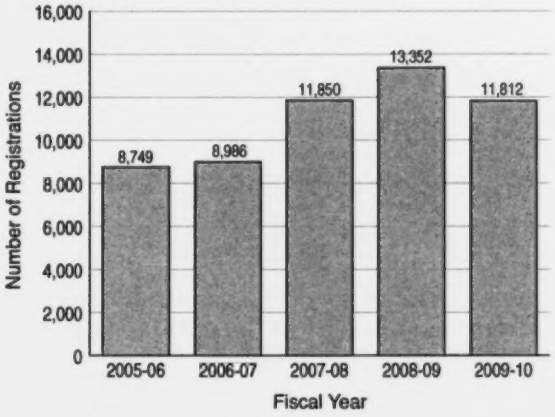
- A multi-media advertising campaign across the province was launched in March 2009 to raise awareness of consumer issues and the existence and role of the Consumer Protection Branch. It included radio, billboards, interior and exterior bus boards and a print ad with a website for more information. The campaign ran from May to November 2009. A baseline survey on awareness was completed prior to the launch. However, due to budget constraints, the Ministry is unable to collect further data to determine whether awareness has increased as a result of the campaign.

- Implementation of the second phase of the Consumer Protection Branch campaign, to educate consumers about the role of the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission (SFSC), was delayed pending completion of the SFSC's new website. While the website project is continuing, a decision was made to end the communications campaign in November 2009.

Measurement Results

Change in businesses registering in Saskatchewan

Number of incorporations and business registrations of all types processed



Source: Corporations Branch, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2010

This measure is of interest to the Ministry and the Government because the number of new business corporations, partnerships, proprietorships, co-operatives and credit unions registered in Saskatchewan demonstrates that the province's business community is growing and that Saskatchewan is an attractive place to do business. In 2009-10, the number dropped to the 2007-08 level, but remained higher than the baseline in 2005-06.

This decrease was expected because the second half of 2008-09 showed a drop in the Saskatchewan economy, which would have an impact on the number of registration requests received. The Ministry has a low level of control over the number of businesses registering in Saskatchewan.

Secure Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family where people are confident in their future, ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit from the growing economy

Reduce crime through prevention, intervention and enforcement

Results

- To enhance prosecutorial capacity and better respond to violent crime, Public Prosecutions received funding for three new prosecutor positions to complement the recent increases in police numbers. These positions are located in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. As well, Public Prosecutions focused on serious violent offenders and took steps to ensure that the court is provided with the necessary background material on these offenders to make appropriate dispositions.

- *The Trespass to Property Act,* proclaimed in effect July 1, 2009, was implemented to protect property owners from trespassers.

- *The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2009* came into force on July 1, 2009. The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General is developing the capacity, in co-operation with the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, to handle seized property and ultimately to dispose of it if the court orders it forfeited. The funds received from disposal of this property, in excess of those required to offset administration costs, will be split between the Victims' Fund and police operations. For more detail, see the report of the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund in Appendix C. (Minister's 2007 Mandate Letter)

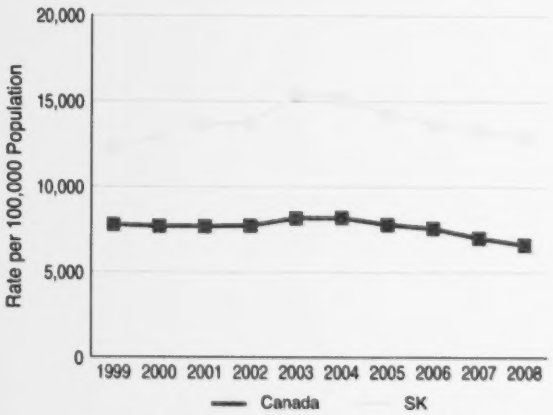
- In May and July 2008, Saskatchewan supported the federal government's *Tackling Violent Crime Act* (Bill C-2) that implemented tougher sentences for serious crimes, crimes that involve the use of a firearm and repeat dangerous offenders. As well, Government supported the implementation of Bill C-14, dealing with organized crime, in October 2009, and amendments to credit for time served under C-25, in February 2010. (Minister's 2007 Mandate Letter)

- The Minister and his officials continue to work with federal justice colleagues to enhance responses and sentences for serious crimes, including crimes of violence against police officers. Specific offences and penalties for assaulting police officers were added to the criminal law by Bill C-14, which was proclaimed in force on October 2, 2009. (Minister's 2007 Mandate Letter)

Measurement Results

Overall crime rate

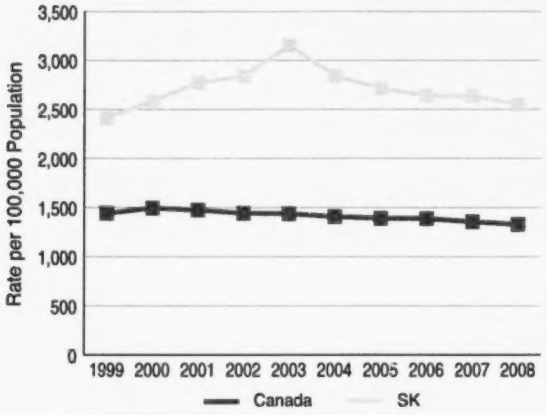
***Criminal Code* crime, Canada and Saskatchewan, 1999-2008**



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident Based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), 2008

Violent crime rate

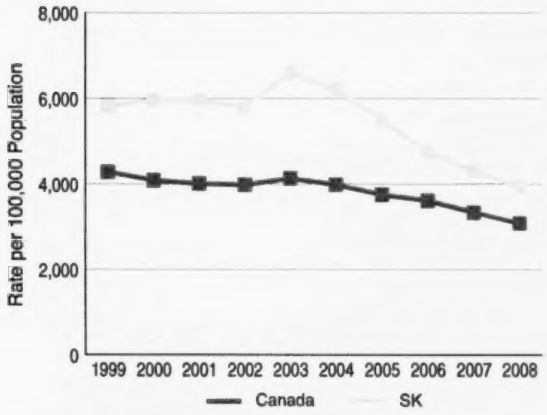
**Violent crime,
Canada and Saskatchewan, 1999-2008**



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident Based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), 2008

Property crime rate

**Property crime,
Canada and Saskatchewan, 1999-2008**



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident Based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2), 2008

These measures are of interest to the Ministry and to the Government because they provide a measure of the well-being of society and drive much of what is done in the criminal justice system. Generally speaking, crime rates provide information on how much and what type of crime is being experienced in communities. This measure supports the Ministry's strategies to reduce crime through prevention, intervention, and enforcement.

Crime rates do not describe how well criminal justice institutions are responding to crime. The crime rate is often thought of as a justice sector issue and while it is a crucial consideration in justice planning, the root causes of crime are much broader, requiring integrated, comprehensive planning, funding and resources across sectors. The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General must be able to respond to offending and victimization effectively and work proactively to address the causes and reduce crime.

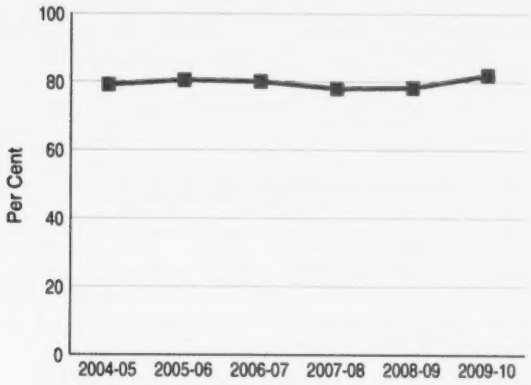
Most of the factors influencing crime rates are out of the direct control of the Ministry. Most justice system funding and resources are used to respond to offending and victimization through enforcement and prosecution of offenders, or in working to reduce the risk of crime and increase public safety in other ways, such as community justice and crime prevention programming.

Although Saskatchewan's property crime rate has declined in recent years (down 40 per cent between 2003 and 2008) and the violent crime rate declined five per cent in the same period, crime rates remain a serious concern.

These are the most current crime statistics available. The 2009 statistics will be available in July 2010.

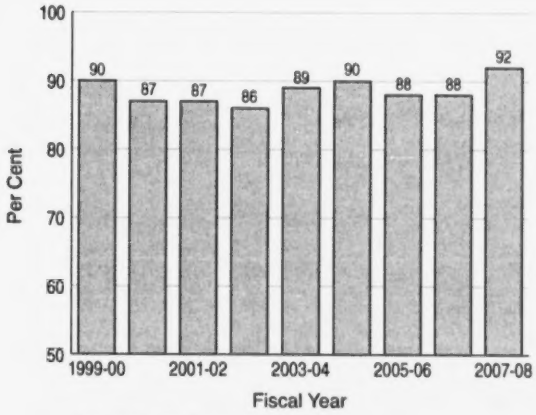
Offender accountability

Percentage of dollar amount of fines ordered paid within five years of disposition, 2004-05 to 2009-10



Source: Court Services, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2010

Percentage of offenders successfully completing agreements in adult alternative measures programs



Source: Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2008

These measures are of interest to the Ministry and the Government because they demonstrate the degree to which offenders are held accountable for their actions by the criminal justice system. Holding offenders accountable for their actions is a critical component of community safety. The ministries of Justice and Attorney General, and Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (CPSP) work together to hold offenders accountable by way of: custodial sentences and community supervision orders; financial commitments; and community justice programs. This supports the Ministry's strategy to reduce crime through prevention, intervention and enforcement.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General is responsible for fine collection, which is reported in the first measure. Offenders can be ordered to pay fines as part of their sentences. Because offenders sometimes require time to pay fines, this measure is reported over a five-year time span as a percentage paid of the dollar amount of fines ordered in a specific fiscal year (e.g., payments for fines ordered in 2003-04 would be reported for the following five fiscal years). This measure has been fairly constant, ranging from 77 per cent to 82 per cent over the last five reporting periods. The increase from 78 per cent in 2008-09 to 82 per cent in 2009-10 can be attributed in part to the success of the agreement between the Ministry and the Canada Revenue Agency to garnish GST rebates and income tax refunds.

Although the Ministry continues to attempt to have as much influence as possible over fine collection, the Ministry has a low-to-moderate influence over this measure. Factors such as the employment status and the ability of the individual to pay are out of the Ministry's control.

The second measure provides data on the successful completion of agreements by offenders in adult community justice alternative measures programs that are the responsibility of the Ministry. Alternative measures programs provide an option within the criminal justice system that allows crime to be addressed outside of the formal court system. People who are accused of a criminal offence and who take responsibility for their conduct, may be offered the opportunity to address the harm caused by their actions. They may do so by participating in diversion, mediation or conferences through a community-based program.

The 2007-08 data (most recent data available) continue to show that over the years offenders have had a consistently high level of success in these programs. The completion rate ranges from 86 per cent to 92 per cent. Analysis to provide more recent data has been delayed due to a reduction in the capacity of the branch responsible for data analysis.

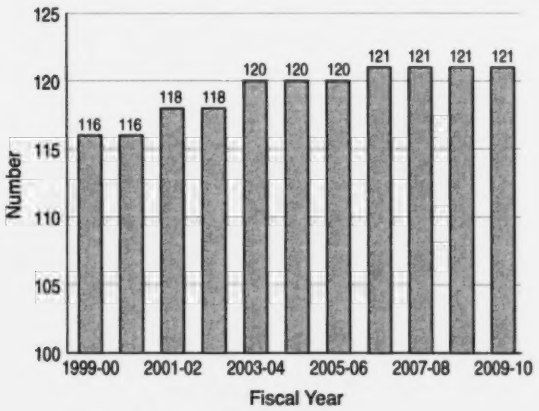
The Ministry has a low level of influence over the outcome of this measure. All of the following determinants have been identified as affecting program success. They are all outside the control of the Ministry:

- offender attitudes, values, beliefs, cognitive challenges and addictions;
- available treatment services and programs;
- family and social supports;
- opportunities for education and employment; and
- changing police practice.

As well, this performance measure depends on external variables such as the willingness of participants to reach agreements and the skills of the mediator or facilitator. This type of justice intervention may have a short-term impact on some offenders if lifestyle conditions and supports remain unchanged. However, research and evaluation projects have shown that participants in alternative measures programs are less likely to re-offend than a cohort group of offenders who did not participate in this type of program.

Communities engaged in crime prevention activities

Community-based organizations engaged in crime prevention activities with Justice and Attorney General, 1999-00 to 2009-10



Source: Community Justice Division, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2010

This measure is of interest to the Ministry and the Government because it demonstrates the extent of partnerships and relationships between the Ministry and community-based organizations (CBOs) offering justice-related programs. Partnering with CBOs is a critical pillar of community justice activity and provides a measure of community engagement in crime prevention. This measure supports the Ministry's strategy to reduce crime through prevention, intervention and enforcement.

The number of CBOs engaged in crime prevention activities with the Ministry has remained fairly constant for the last five years. These programs include community justice programs, victim services programs, crime prevention programs, family violence prevention and crisis response programs.

Implementation of the community-based model the Ministry uses to promote community justice takes time. Community readiness is a critical factor because the community has a vital role in developing these programs to support a response to criminal behaviour and victimization that meets locally determined needs. The Ministry continues to have success with this model and has a high level of influence over the measure as the Ministry often initiates and supports community participation through CBOs.

Improve public confidence by enhancing the infrastructure and efficiency of the justice system

Results

- As part of the five-year plan to improve the security of court facilities throughout the province, the following has been accomplished in 2009-10:
  - Construction of the Meadow Lake Court House is proceeding, with planned completion in fall 2010.
  - Detailed planning and design of an addition to the Saskatoon Court of Queen's Bench to accommodate the Family Law Division has been completed.

- The renovation to accommodate perimeter security screening in Saskatoon Court of Queen's Bench was operational in May 2009, bringing the number of facilities in the province that have the capacity to conduct perimeter security screening to six.

- Renovations to the Swift Current Court House (Provincial Court and Court of Queen's Bench) and Regina Provincial Court House to enhance security for all court participants have been completed.

- Minor renovations to provincial court day-use locations, such as Carrot River, Kamsack and Nipawin, have been completed to enhance security and better meet space requirements for court participants.

- Ten additional video-conferencing sites were established in 2009-10: two in Prince Albert, two in Regina, two in the Battlefords, and one each in Lloydminster, Melfort, Yorkton and Nipawin. There are a total of 26 sites in Saskatchewan. Since 2007, 5,060 accused have made 33,719 court appearances via video-conferencing.

- In order to develop a specific enforcement response, the Ministry hired a full-time enforcement officer, a full-time collection liaison officer and two part-time assistants to improve fine collection from offenders who do not voluntarily pay fines.

- The partnership between the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Set-off Program and the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General has been extremely successful, including collection of older fines that have proven to be difficult in the past. This partnership allows the Ministry to garnish federal government income tax and GST credits from people who have not paid their fines. The Ministry has collected over $3.0 million since January 2009 from the CRA Set-off Program and civil enforcement.

- The Ministry has strengthened civil enforcement by monitoring fines over $1,200, and taking appropriate action, as they become due.

- In order to assist in the collection of restitution monies owed to victims by offenders, amendments were made to *The Summary Offence Procedures Act, 2009* (SOPA) to provide authority for the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General to enforce restitution orders on behalf of victims. The changes came into force on May 14, 2009.

- To further assist in the collection of restitution monies, exemptions under *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* will not be available to a debtor facing judgment enforcement of a restitution order by a victim.

- The Restitution Civil Enforcement Project pilot was implemented in November 2009 in Yorkton and Regina to assist in the collection of restitution monies owed to victims by offenders. This pilot works closely with the Restitution Coordinator in Victims Services to monitor restitution monies owed to victims by offenders. The Ministry is working with Justice Canada to evaluate the pilot project and its impact. (Minister's 2007 Mandate Letter)

- Work continued in response to the recommendations in the *Report of the Inquiry into the Wrongful Conviction of David Milgaard*. In response to Recommendation 6, Public Prosecutions has instituted a policy change relating to the process used when a complaint received by the police questions a conviction.

Support adults and children in vulnerable circumstances by providing legal and personal assistance

Results

- The Ministry continued to work with the Human Services Integration Forum (HSIF) and the Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICs) to ensure a seamless integrated service delivery system for children, youth and families among human service ministries, agencies and other stakeholders at the provincial, regional and local levels. The HSIF began work on developing its strategic framework and priority actions to support the strategic framework.

- In April 2009, a new Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Unit was established in the Community Justice Division to support the development, delivery, funding and licensing of programs to address interpersonal violence.

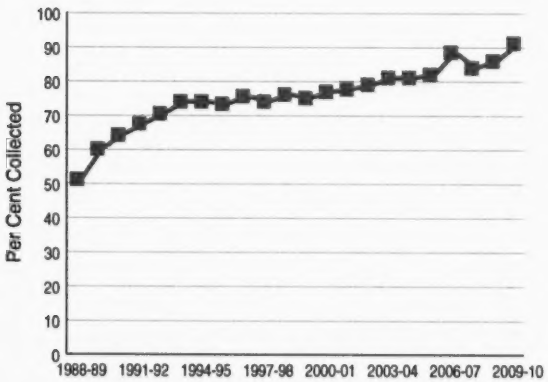
- In July 2009, responsibility for community-based family violence, sexual assault and related services was transferred from the Ministry of Social Services to the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. In 2009-10, funding of $9.2 million and in kind support was provided to operate 40 services delivered by 34 CBOs in 17 communities across Saskatchewan. This funding included an annualized seven per cent increase in 2008-09, plus a three per cent increase in 2009-10, for a total increase of $227,475.

- On January 1, 2010, the responsibility for licensing 14 interpersonal violence and abuse residential services for women and their accompanying children was also transferred.

Measurement Results

Collection of support payments for children and families

Collection rates of maintenance enforcement orders and agreements referred to the Maintenance Enforcement Office, 1988-89 to 2009-10



Source: Maintenance Enforcement Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2010

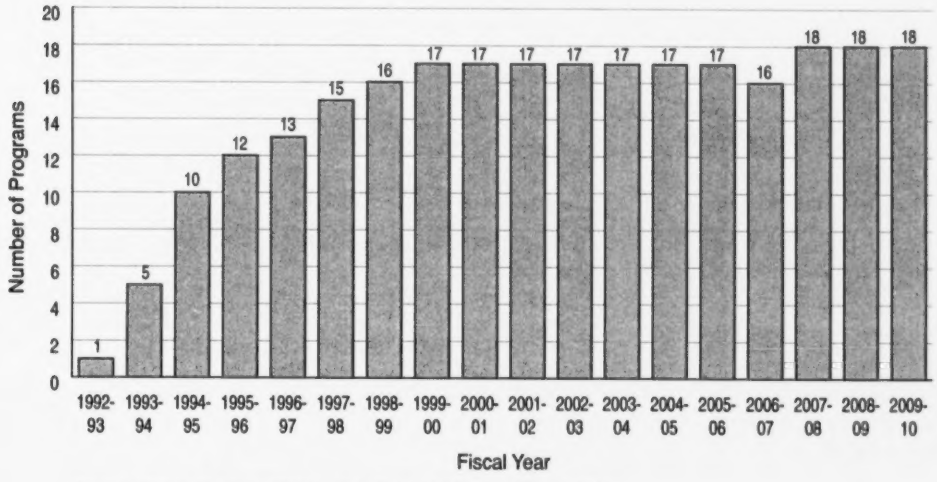
This measure is of interest to the Ministry and the Government because its increasing value demonstrates commitment to ensuring that Saskatchewan is a secure place in which to live. Maintenance enforcement orders and agreements for financial support occur following a divorce or separation. The health and well-being of the families depend on timely receipt of support income to which they are entitled. This measure connects with the Ministry's strategy to support adults and children in vulnerable circumstances by providing legal and personal assistance.

This performance measure provides evidence that the Saskatchewan Maintenance Enforcement Office has consistently improved its rate of collection over the long term since it was first opened in the 1987-88 fiscal year. For the past five years, the Office has maintained a collection rate of over 80 per cent. In 2009-10, the Office collected 91.2 per cent of monies owed in maintenance and enforcement orders and agreements referred to the Office. The Office collected $34 million in 2009-10. This is the second highest collection rate in Canada, behind Québec, which has a mandatory program.

The Ministry has a high level of influence over this measure. The Office can enforce orders through garnishment of wages, bank accounts, and federal government payments, such as employment insurance, Canada Pension payments, Old Age Security, income tax refunds or GST credits. It is always looking for new ways to ensure the successful collection of monies owed.

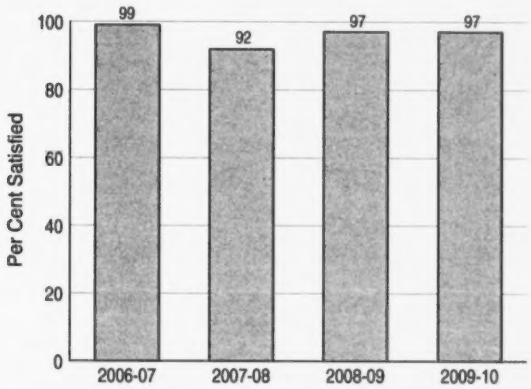
Access to and satisfaction with Police-based Victim Services programs

Number of Police-based Victim Services programs, 1992-93 to 2009-10



Source: Victims Services, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2010

Client satisfaction with Police-based Victim Services programs, 2006-07 to 2009-10



Source: Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2010

These measures are of interest to the Ministry and the Government because they demonstrate the Ministry's commitment to providing effective services and supports to victims of crime throughout the criminal justice process. This supports the Ministry's strategy to support children and adults in vulnerable circumstances by providing legal and personal assistance.

The 18 police-based programs serve victims of crime directly and cover 87 per cent of the Saskatchewan population. This continues to reflect the increase of seven per cent in population served achieved in 2008-09, following eight years in which programs consistently served 80 per cent of the population.

Funding for these programs comes from the Victims' Fund. Program expansion, to provide access to a police-based program for all Saskatchewan residents, is a long-term goal that will proceed as sufficient funds become available.

The police-based programs are very effective at serving victims of crime and traumatic events through crisis intervention, information about the impact of crime and victimization, support, and referrals to other services. Since 2006-07, a satisfaction survey has been conducted with clients of these programs. In 2009-10, 177 completed surveys were returned and:

- The supports and services provided by Victim Services met the needs of 95.3 per cent of respondents, with 58.7 per cent reporting that their needs were more than met;
- The supports and services provided by Victim Services satisfied 97.1 per cent of respondents;

- Of those surveyed, 97.7 per cent felt that they were treated with courtesy, respect and compassion; and
- Victim Services representatives were reported as non-judgmental by 97.1 per cent of those surveyed.

Factors that may affect clients' perception of the program include: timeliness of the response, frequency of the contact, nature of the services provided, needs of the victim, and the victim's expectations about the role of Victim Services and of the criminal justice process.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General has a moderate level of control over these measures. The programs are delivered in partnership with the local police service. RCMP-based programs operate with non-profit community-based boards.

Keep Government's Promises and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan

Negotiate key federal/provincial agreements to benefit Saskatchewan people

Results

- An agreement was reached to extend the 2009-10 federal funding for the provision of criminal and civil legal aid into 2010-11, while interjurisdictional discussions continue to address longer-term funding needs for legal aid.
- The partnership with Justice Canada, Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, and community-based programs offered by First Nations tribal councils and bands continues to remain strong. It supports the delivery of stable and productive community justice programs. A list of these programs is posted at **www.justice.gov.sk.ca/communityservicesdivision**.
- An agreement was reached to extend the 2009-10 federal funding for the Regina Drug Treatment Court (RDTC) to March 2012. The RDTC reviewed its operations and made significant changes to address issues identified in the process and outcome evaluations concluded in December 2009 by the Ministry.
- The 2009-10 agreement to extend federal support to continue the Child-centred Family Justice Fund (Supporting Families Initiative) was finalized. It included funding for parent education and high-conflict parent education, the Support Variation Project, the Access Facilitation Program, child support information sessions, client service representatives at the Maintenance Enforcement Office, and family law research projects.
- A funding agreement was put in place for the 2009-10 Aboriginal Courtworker Program. Saskatchewan and other provincial and territorial partners continued to encourage the federal government to expand the current mandate and funding support for the National Aboriginal Courtworker Program. In Saskatchewan, over 12,000 people were served by the program in 2009-10.
- *The Election Amendment Act, 2009* came into force on May 14, 2009. The Act fulfills our commitment to restrict government advertising in the four months prior to the start of the election campaign and eliminate government advertising completely in the month prior to the election campaign, except in the case of an emergency or compelling public safety concern. (Minister's 2007 Mandate Letter)

Increase participation of Aboriginal people in justice system delivery to deal with criminal justice issues

Results

- To support continuing partnerships and promote the social and economic well-being of Aboriginal peoples, the Ministry contracted Doug Elliott of SaskTrends Monitor to compile selected demographic and economic characteristics of Saskatchewan's Aboriginal population.

Doug Elliott presented this information to various groups within government. As well, the Ministry continues to participate in the interministerial Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) Working Group and the Métis Policy Working Group.

- Officials from the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General have participated on the interministry officials working group that worked on the implementation of the consultation policy with First Nations and Métis peoples. They participated in the review of the comments received from First Nations and Métis peoples, and industry, on the draft Consultation Policy Framework that was released in December 2008. They provided legal advice with respect to various issues related to the duty to consult, have accommodated issues that have arisen during the course of preparing the new Consultation Policy Framework and have assisted in drafting the new policy.

Improve program management and accountability through program evaluations and by developing efficient data collection processes

Results

- Implementation of a two-year plan to review and evaluate justice programs to ensure effectiveness and improve justice programming continued, with these results:
  - A program evaluation was completed for the Saskatoon Domestic Violence Court. Recidivism studies were conducted in the Saskatoon Domestic Violence Court and the Battlefords Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court. As well, 2008-09 data reports for the three domestic violence courts were produced. Reports are available from Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch.
  - The Program Review of Court Operations was initiated.
  - The three-phase process and outcome evaluation of the Regina Drug Treatment Court was completed. Reports are available from Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch.
  - The review of the guidelines for alternative measures and extra-judicial sanctions programs was completed, and the ministries of Justice and Attorney General, and Corrections, Public Safety and Policing are developing an action plan in response to the recommendations.
- The Ministry assisted Justice Canada in conducting an evaluation of the impact of Aboriginal justice programs in Saskatchewan, by providing advice on methodology, acting as a liaison with Saskatchewan Community Justice programs and providing aggregated data as needed. Data collection was completed and it is anticipated that the federal report will be distributed in 2010-11.
- The Ministry and its partners continue to work to improve the delivery of therapeutic court services in five therapeutic courts – three domestic violence courts (Battlefords, Saskatoon and Regina) and two drug treatment courts (Regina and Moose Jaw).
  - Program evaluations of the domestic violence courts in Battlefords, Saskatoon and Regina showed that the courts are meeting their objectives of offender accountability, increased victim safety and expeditious court processes. In 2009-10, over 1,800 offenders appeared in the courts with over 330 entering the treatment option. Over 1,800 victims received specialized services and supports.
  - Recidivism studies completed in the Saskatoon Domestic Violence Court and the Battlefords Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court showed that offenders referred through the domestic violence court process recidivate less often than those referred after sentencing. As well, those completing programming re-offend less often.
  - The evaluation of the Regina Drug Treatment Court showed that those offenders participating in the court for five months or more had made positive changes in criminal behaviour, drug use and life conditions.
  - All evaluations commented on the positive impact of the collaborative model used to develop and maintain the therapeutic courts.

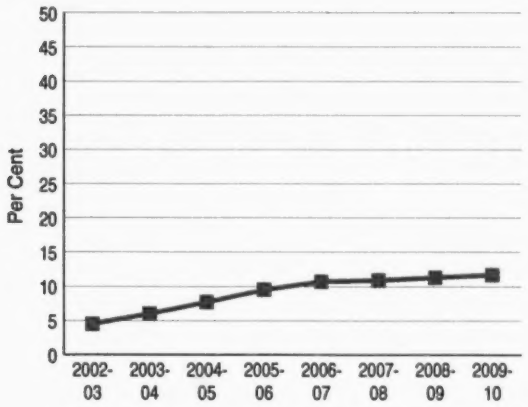
Enhance cultural diversity and awareness throughout the justice system

- The Ministry incorporated diversity policies into its hiring practice:
  - Of the 109 new employees hired by the Ministry in 2009-10, 30 self-declared their Aboriginal status. Sixteen were new hires to government and 14 were transfers within government.
  - Of the 93 positions posted on the Public Service Career website, 20 were posted identifying "preference or designated to" people of Aboriginal ancestry. From the 20 positions posted, 13 Aboriginal candidates were hired.
- To increase cultural awareness among Ministry employees, an executive planning group worked on a planned approach to integrate diversity in the workplace culture, career fairs, and recruitment of employees. An agreement in principle to a revised approach that supports a broader representation and mandate was reached.

Measurement Results

Employment diversity

Justice employees who self-identify as Aboriginal



Source: Saskatchewan Public Service Commission, 2010

This measure is of interest to the Ministry and the Government because it demonstrates the change in the Ministry workforce to reflect the diversity of the clientele the Ministry serves. In 2009-10, 11.7 per cent of Ministry employees self-declared their ethnicity as Aboriginal, which is an increase of 0.4 per cent over the previous year. This compares to 11.8 per cent for all Government. This measure supports the Ministry's strategy to enhance cultural diversity and awareness throughout the justice system.

The justice system and Aboriginal peoples benefit from having Aboriginal people more involved in working within the justice system. Justice programs may better meet the needs of the Ministry's clients if programs are culturally relevant and responsive. By employing individuals from the Aboriginal community, the Ministry ensures that the interests of Aboriginal people are understood and incorporated into program development and implementation. This, in turn, increases the confidence of Aboriginal people in the justice system.

The Ministry has a moderate level of influence over this measure. It is committed to workplace diversity. However, it has no control over who applies for positions in the Ministry.

Develop efficient, effective information management systems

Results

- In fall 2009, the business case for the Criminal Justice Information Management System (CJIMS) was approved by Management Services Council. CJIMS is an integrated data management system to address data needs in the criminal justice system for the ministries of Justice and Attorney General, and Corrections, Public Safety and Policing. The Ministry has formed a three-way partnership with the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, and the Information Technology Office to undertake detailed planning during the 2010-11 fiscal year.
- In November 2009, the Sierra Systems Group was selected as vendor, through a Request for Proposal process, to develop a plan to replace the Maintenance Enforcement Information Data System by 2011. Phase One of the two-phase plan focuses on the establishment and documentation of the functional requirements to build the system. Phase Two focuses on the construction and implementation of the system. Phase One's completion date was extended to April 2010 to allow for a final review prior to delivery.

Financial Overview 2009-10

The Ministry's original 2009-10 expenditure budget (appropriation) was $163.8 million, including $22.2 million for capital asset acquisitions and $142.3 million on an expense basis. The expense budget excludes the $22.2 million appropriation for the Ministry to acquire capital assets and includes $750,000 for the amortization of capital assets.

For 2009-10, actual expenses were $145.3 million; a variance of $3.0 million greater than the expense budget. The increased costs are attributable to:

- hiring additional staff to address workload pressures in Court Services, Public Guardian and Trustee, Human Rights Commission and Public Prosecutions ($3.0 million); and
- operating pressures driven by the Ministry's information technology partnership ($500,000).

These costs were partially offset by reduced spending of $374,000 in the Saskatchewan Financial Securities Commission (SFSC) that was transferred to a Special Operating Agency (SOA) effective July 1, 2009; reduced grant payments to community-based organizations due to program delays or reduced need; and general program savings.

The Ministry was able to offset the expense shortfall through the transfer of capital funding that was under-spent due to weather delays that put projects behind schedule.

Expense results by sub-vote and program area are summarized in subsequent pages of this report.

The 2009-10 revenue budget was $43.5 million. Actual revenue was $51.4 million; $7.9 million greater than budget. The increased revenue is primarily attributable to:

- SFSC received more revenue than expected before it was transferred to an SOA ($700,000);
- The Ministry received a dividend payment from SFSC that was greater than expected, which was the result of higher overall revenue received by SFSC, after it was transferred to a Special Operating Agency ($1.9 million);
- Courts received increased overall revenue from fines and fees ($4.0 million); and
- The remaining $1.3 million is attributable to a number of different branches that had increased revenue. Most notable are Public Guardian and Trustee ($612,000), Consumer Protection ($366,000), Corporations ($162,000), and Automobile Insurance Appeal Commission ($403,000). The total, which exceeds $1.3 million, was offset by branches with decreased revenue.

The 2009-10 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) budget was 891.1 FTEs, with actual FTE utilization of 966.0 (74.9 FTEs over budget). There were 4.6 miscellaneous net vacancies throughout the Ministry, with additional staff members required to address workload pressure, as follows:

- Courts (security detention and workload pressures) – 56.8
- Public Prosecutions (workload pressures) – 17.1
- Public Guardian and Trustee (workload pressures) – 5.6

2009-10 Financial Results – Expenditures

The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted expenditures by sub-vote and sub-program. Explanations are provided where variances are greater than $100,000. All amounts are shown in $000s.

Sub-vote	Sub-program	2008-09 Actual Expend.	2009-10 Original Estimate	2009-10 Actual Expend.	Variance	Notes
Central Management and Services	Executive Management	$ 1,084	$ 1,013	$ 1,055	$ 42	
	Central Services	6,117	5,418	5,917	499	1
	Accommodation Services	13,562	14,056	13,762	(294)	2
Total Central Management and Services		**$ 20,763**	**$ 20,487**	**$ 20,734**	**$ 247**	
Courts and Civil Justice	Court Services	$ 28,165	$ 26,294	$ 28,056	$ 1,762	3
	Dispute Resolution	1,574	1,598	1,560	(38)	
	Family Justice Services	3,987	4,281	4,340	59	
	Public Guardian and Trustee	2,537	2,440	2,672	232	4
	Salaries – Provincial Court Judges	11,662	11,952	11,765	(187)	5
Total Courts and Civil Justice		**$ 47,925**	**$ 46,565**	**$ 48,393**	**$ 1,828**	
Legal and Policy Services	Access and Privacy	$ 301	$ 331	$ 300	$ (31)	
	Civil Law	3,767	3,654	3,671	17	
	Communications	484	565	472	(93)	
	Policy, Planning and Evaluation	1,107	1,322	1,230	(92)	
	Public Law	3,307	3,657	3,638	(19)	
	Public Prosecutions	16,988	17,329	18,065	736	6
	Queen's Printer – Net Financing Requirement	61	19	(92)	(111)	7
	Queen's Printer – Subsidy	65	98	75	(23)	
Total Legal and Policy Services		**$ 26,080**	**$ 26,975**	**$ 27,359**	**$ 384**	
Community Justice	Community Services	$ 6,558	$ 14,686	$ 14,129	$ (557)	8
	Coroners	2,475	2,966	2,878	(88)	
	Public Complaints Commission	629	706	628	(78)	
Total Community Justice		**$ 9,662**	**$ 18,358**	**$ 17,635**	**$ (723)**	
Marketplace Regulation	Consumer Protection	$ 810	$ 910	$ 915	$ 5	
	Corporations	1,993	1,910	1,955	45	
	Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission	2,699	1,172	798	(374)	9
	Land Titles Assurance Claims	1	25	16	(9)	
Total Marketplace Regulation		**$ 5,503**	**$ 4,017**	**$ 3,684**	**$ (333)**	
Boards and Commissions	Automobile Injury Appeal Commission	$ 820	$ 947	$ 1,264	$ 317	10
	Enquiries	719	221	162	(59)	
	Legal Aid Commission	20,315	20,959	21,209	250	11
	Residential Tenancies/ Provincial Mediation Board	1,117	1,227	1,136	(91)	
	Human Rights Commission	1,850	1,769	2,096	327	12
Total Boards and Commissions		**$ 24,821**	**$ 25,123**	**$ 25,867**	**$ 744**	
Courts Capital	Courts Capital	$ 4,790	$ 22,243	$ 14,021	$ (8,222)	13
Total Courts Capital		**$ 4,790**	**$ 22,243**	**$ 14,021**	**$ (8,222)**	
Total Ministry Appropriation		**$ 139,544**	**$ 163,768**	**$ 157,693**	**$ (6,075)**	
Capital Asset Acquisitions		(4,582)	(22,243)	(12,871)	9,372	14
Capital Asset Amortization		686	750	470	(280)	15
Total Ministry Expense		**$ 135,648**	**$ 142,275**	**$ 145,292**	**$ 3,017**	

Explanation of major variances

1 Costs to support the information technology partnership with Information Technology were greater than budgeted.

2 Cost of space leased through Government Services lower than anticipated.

3 Increased costs related to court security, workload pressures and other operating pressures.

4 Hiring of additional term staff to address workload pressures.

5 Decreased vacation leave liability and reduced need for relief judges.

6 Additional staff to address workload pressures, and travel and other operating costs.

7 Adjustment to record revolving fund net recovery.

8 Reduced grants to community-based organizations due to project delays.

9 Actuals less than required prior to transfer to a Special Operating Agency.

10 Additional costs associated with leasehold improvements.

11 Additional funding to offset additional costs as a result of northern air travel, the Private Bar for *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and staffing costs.

12 Increased funding for legal resources, such as increased salary costs, summer relief, and educational programming that is being developed by the Human Rights Commission.

13 Capital projects delayed due to contractor/ weather factors.

14 Actual cost of capital projects meeting the definition of a tangible capital asset.

15 Amortization of capital assets lower than anticipated.

Detailed payee information will be published in Volume 2 of the 2009-10 Public Accounts.

2009-10 Financial Results – Revenues

The Ministry collects revenues related to fines, licences and service fees on behalf of the Government and receives funding from the federal government related to Legal Aid and other cost-shared programs.

The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted revenues by revenue description. Explanations are provided for all variances greater than $100,000. All amounts are shown in $000s.

Description	Revenue Budget	Actual Revenue	Variance	Notes
Other licences and permits	$ 7,135	$ 7,406	$ 271	1
Sales, services and service fees	13,083	15,716	2,633	2
Fines, forfeits and penalties	10,479	13,212	2,733	3
Interest, premium, discount, and exchange	18	16	(2)	
Transfers from other governments	609	640	31	
Other enterprises and funds	5,953	8,216	2,263	4
Other miscellaneous revenue	156	411	255	5
Other federal/provincial agreements	6,030	5,738	(292)	6
Ministry Revenue	**$ 43,463**	**$ 51,355**	**$ 7,892**	

Explanation of major variances

1 Increased filing of corporate annual returns.

2 Increase in prospectus revenue in the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission (SFSC) and Surrogate Court fees.

3 Increase in number of fines ordered.

4 Dividend from SFSC higher than estimated.

5 Increase in miscellaneous revenue. The increase is primarily made up of recoveries of fines that had been written off, outstanding cheques that have been stale-dated and refunds (prior year's expense).

6 Portion of the revenue under the federal/ provincial Agreement for Drug Treatment Court reflected in the Ministry of Health.

Revolving Funds and Special Purpose Accounts

The Ministry is responsible for managing and operating the following revolving or special purpose funds:

- Queen's Printer Revolving Fund
- Victims' Fund
- Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund
- Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Fund

Information regarding the 2009-10 business activities of these funds, except for the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Fund, can be found in Appendix C of this annual report. The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission files an individual annual report with a financial statement. The financial statements for these funds can be found on the Ministry website: **www.justice.gov.sk.ca**.

For More Information

This report provides information about our accomplishments and our future plans. We welcome any questions or comments that you may have. Please feel free to contact us at:

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Communications Branch
1000 - 1874 Scarth Street
Regina, SK S4P 4B3

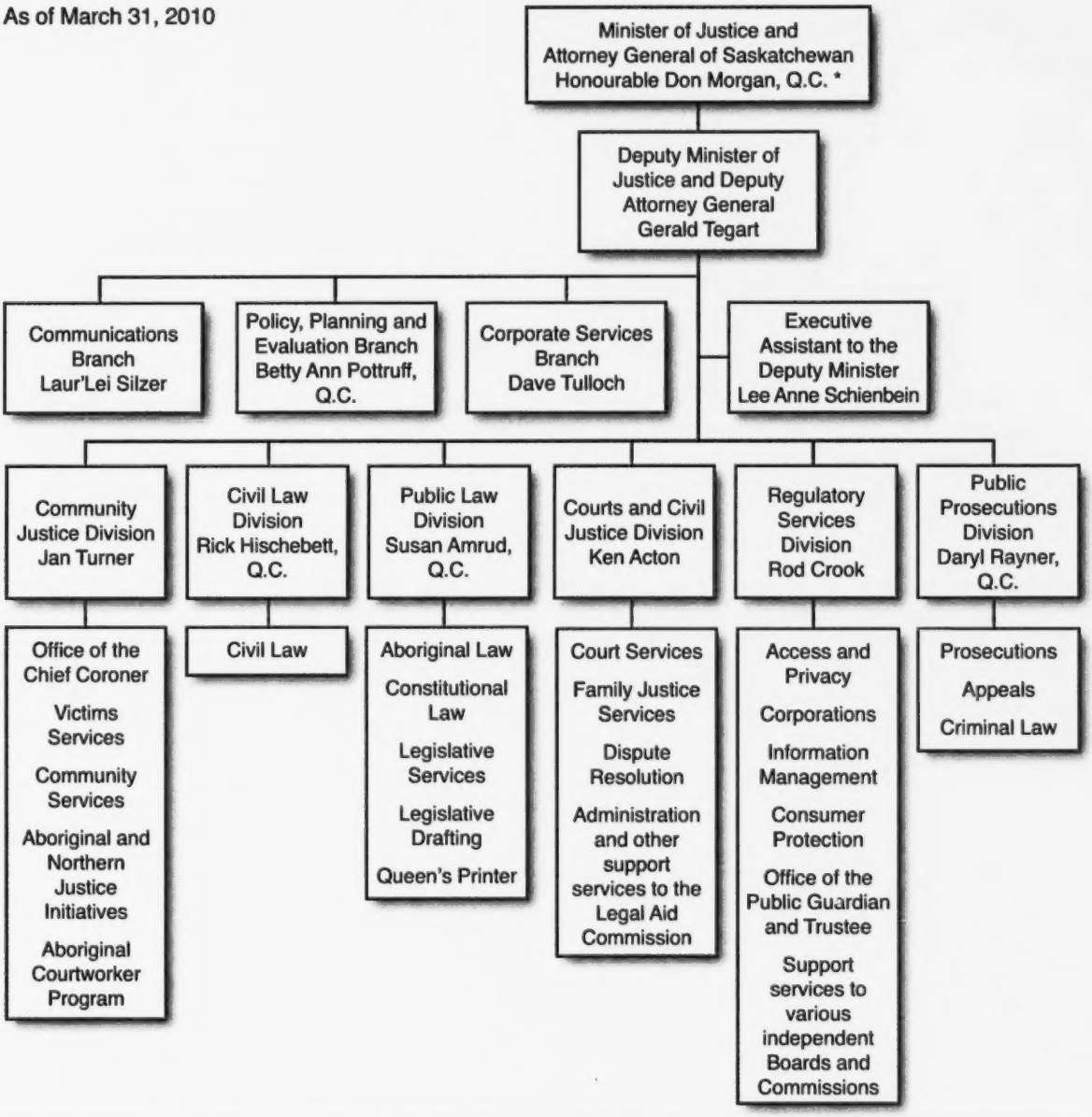
By telephone: (306) 787-7872

Or send an e-mail through the Ministry website at: **www.justice.gov.sk.ca**.

Copies of this report are available for download on the Ministry website.

Appendix A: Organizational Chart

As of March 31, 2010


Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Saskatchewan Honourable Don Morgan, Q.C. *
Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General Gerald Tegart
Communications Branch Laur'Lei Silzer
Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch Betty Ann Pottruff, Q.C.
Corporate Services Branch Dave Tulloch
Executive Assistant to the Deputy Minister Lee Anne Schienbein
Community Justice Division Jan Turner
Civil Law Division Rick Hischebett, Q.C.
Public Law Division Susan Amrud, Q.C.
Courts and Civil Justice Division Ken Acton
Regulatory Services Division Rod Crook
Public Prosecutions Division Daryl Rayner, Q.C.
Office of the Chief Coroner
Victims Services
Community Services
Aboriginal and Northern Justice Initiatives
Aboriginal Courtworker Program
Civil Law
Aboriginal Law
Constitutional Law
Legislative Services
Legislative Drafting
Queen's Printer
Court Services
Family Justice Services
Dispute Resolution
Administration and other support services to the Legal Aid Commission
Access and Privacy
Corporations
Information Management
Consumer Protection
Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee
Support services to various independent Boards and Commissions
Prosecutions
Appeals
Criminal Law

Also Responsible for:

- Aboriginal Courtworker Advisory Committee
- Automobile Injury Appeal Commission
- Co-operative Securities Board
- Human Rights Commission
- Law Reform Commission
- Office of Residential Tenancies
- Provincial Mediation Board
- Public Complaints Commission
- Public and Private Rights Board
- Saskatchewan Advisory Board of Review
- Saskatchewan Film Classification Appeal Committee
- Saskatchewan Film Classification Board
- Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission
- Saskatchewan Human Rights Tribunal
- Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission
- Victims Compensation Appeal Committee

Appendix B: Boards and Commissions

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General is responsible for a number of boards and commissions that receive varying levels of administrative and policy support from the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, including:

- Automobile Injury Appeal Commission
- Co-operative Securities Board
- Human Rights Commission
- Law Reform Commission
- Office of Residential Tenancies
- Provincial Mediation Board
- Public Complaints Commission
- Public and Private Rights Board
- Saskatchewan Advisory Board of Review
- Saskatchewan Film Classification Appeal Committee
- Saskatchewan Film Classification Board
- Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission
- Saskatchewan Human Rights Tribunal
- Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission

Most of these boards and commissions produce and table their own annual reports. However, the following agencies have very brief annual reports that are included in this document to accommodate the tabling requirements and reduce printing costs:

- Automobile Injury Appeal Commission
- Provincial Mediation Board
- Office of Residential Tenancies

Automobile Injury Appeal Commission

Commission Membership

The 2009-10 fiscal year has been one of change for the Commission's membership with the departure of Chairperson Barbara Tomkins, Q.C., and Beverly Cleveland, one of its original Commission members, as well as a number of other part-time members.

New members appointed to the Commission during the year included Laura Lacoursiere and Dr. Barry Heath of Saskatoon, Ryan Plewis of Swift Current and Keith Laxdal of Regina.

The current membership includes:

- Joy Dobko, Saskatoon
- Dr. Barry Heath, Saskatoon
- Laura Lacoursiere, Saskatoon
- Jane Lancaster, Q.C., Saskatoon
- Keith Laxdal, Regina (Chairperson)
- Walter Matkowski, Saskatoon
- Ann Phillips, Q.C., Regina
- Ryan Plewis, Swift Current

Mandate and Objectives

The Automobile Injury Appeal Commission (AIAC) is an independent, quasi-judicial body whose mandate is to adjudicate no-fault benefit disputes between a claimant and Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) (the insurer) in a less formal manner and on a more timely, less costly basis than is available through the courts.

In fulfilling this role, the Commission has three objectives:

- To issue sound decisions based on facts, findings and legislative entitlements on a timely basis.
- To enhance services provided to claimants through:
  - claimant-oriented rules, policies and procedures that supplement the legislative and regulatory framework;
  - management and administrative support provided to all parties throughout the appeal process; and
  - targeted communication and public information initiatives.
- To protect confidential information through appropriate privacy and security policies and practices.

The Appeal Process

The AIAC hears appeals under the Personal Injury Protection Plan for injuries sustained in motor vehicle accidents, regardless of fault. The plan is administered by SGI.

When people are not satisfied with a personal injury benefits decision made by SGI under the no-fault system, they can file an appeal with either the Court of Queen's Bench or the Commission. Appeals must be filed either within 90 days from the date of SGI's decision or, if mediation was elected, 60 days from the date mediation was completed.

Claimants filing an appeal to the Commission pay a $75 application fee. If this causes substantial hardship, claimants may ask the Commission to waive the fee by obtaining and filing a Certificate of Substantial Hardship. The fee (if paid) is refunded if the claimant is successful.

Once the claimant and SGI have filed all documents relevant to an appeal, the Commission gives written notice of the hearing date, time and location. Hearings are regularly held in Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina. AIAC provides the documents submitted by the claimant and the respondent to assist the parties and appeal panel in reviewing the documentary evidence.

Claimants can represent themselves or have their lawyers present their cases to the Commission. In approximately two of three appeals, claimants are self-represented. SGI is represented by counsel.

Both the claimant and SGI have the right to examine and cross-examine any witness. If necessary, either party can arrange to have a witness subpoenaed to attend the hearing. Witnesses can testify by telephone if they are unable to attend the hearing in person.

The Commission interprets and applies the law and the regulations governing no-fault benefits. It has the authority to set aside, confirm or vary benefit decisions made by SGI under the no-fault benefits plan. Written reasons for the Commission's decision are provided to and binding on both parties. The decision can be appealed to the Court of Appeal on a question of law only. Transcripts or audio recordings are provided to the parties upon request and at their expense.

Appeal hearings are open to the public and the Commission's decisions are published on its website (**www.autoinjuryappeal.sk.ca**) and other legal sites, although de-identified for purposes of web publication. This practice assists claimants and the general public in knowing more about their entitlement to injury benefits and offers self-represented claimants an opportunity to become familiar with the hearing process.

Legislative and Budgetary Authorities

Legislation governing the Commission's activities includes:

- *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act, 1995 and 2002*
- *The Personal Injury Benefits Regulations, 1995 and 2002*
- *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Injury) Regulations, 2005*

2009-10 Budget:	$947,000
FTEs:	6.0
2009-10 Actual:	$1,264,080

In-year approval was obtained for the relocation of the Regina office which, with associated renovation costs, resulted in increased spending of approximately $286,000. The remaining increase in costs is attributable to accommodation and salary cost changes.

2009-10 Activities and Results

- There were 104 new appeals filed with the Commission in 2009-10. At year end, there were 132 appeals awaiting a hearing. A number of these will be settled, withdrawn or closed before a hearing occurs.
- Of the 41 final decisions issued by the Commission during the year, 90 per cent (37) were issued within 60 days from the date of the hearing or the latest date information was filed. The remaining decisions were issued within 90 days. Final decisions issued during a given fiscal year are related to appeals filed in all previous years and are not reported in the table on the following page.
- An internal Operation Review was completed in December 2009. The Review included 35 separate recommendations related to pre-hearing processes, appeal management issues, advocacy, and communications and public education. Commissioners have reviewed these recommendations and work has commenced on many of the items contained in the Review.
- In December 2009, Commission staff moved from the original offices on Scarth Street to a newly-renovated and larger office on College Avenue. The new office more effectively serves clients through additional hearing room space, as well as breakout facilities for the parties and commissioners.
- Commissioners have been working to finalize a number of internal policies and procedures that will assist in ensuring internal consistency, as well as documenting matters for future reference and training purposes.
- The significant turnover in Commission membership during the year resulted in some training needs for new members. These needs were addressed through mentorship arrangements supplemented by both internal and external training opportunities.

2010-11 Planned Actions

- Recommend amendments to *The Personal Injury Benefits Regulations* primarily directed to refining the application form to focus more clearly on identifying the issues in dispute, thereby facilitating the collection of only relevant documentation and increasing the timeliness of the appeal process.
- Redesign and implement a new application form along with revisions to accompanying instructions.
- Establish a pilot project to introduce "appeal management discussions" involving SGI, the claimant and the Commission as an element of the pre-hearing processes to assist in clarifying issues and thereby advance the appeal on a timelier basis.
- Provide plain language training for Commission members and staff.
- Develop more and better communication materials for claimants, particularly those who choose to represent themselves at a hearing.
- Finalize a Security Framework setting out operating guidelines to be followed by Commission staff and members.

Automobile Injury Appeal Commission
Appeal Status as of March 31, 2010

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Appeals Filed	144	122	125	113	104
Closed, Withdrawn or Settled	79	60	69	39	19
Adjourned	3	7	11	14	10
Hearings Concluded	62	46	31	24	1
Total Outstanding	0	9	14	36	74
Decisions Issued	61	46	31	24	1
Decisions to be Issued	1	0	0	0	0

This table shows the number of appeals filed in each of the past five fiscal years, and the status of those appeals as of March 31, 2010. For instance, there were 104 appeals filed in the 2009-10 fiscal year and as at March 31, 2010, a decision was issued in relation to only one of these appeals.

Provincial Mediation Board and Office of Residential Tenancies

The Provincial Mediation Board has a role or responsibility in:

- Debt Counselling
- Municipal Tax Enforcement
- Mortgage Foreclosures

Debt Counselling

The Board provides assistance to individuals and families with personal debt problems. A credit counsellor reviews financial circumstances and offers options to deal with debt. The Board may assist by negotiating better terms for payment to creditors, collecting a monthly payment from the debtor and distributing it to the creditors. The Board also administers the Orderly Payment of Debt program under the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act.* Unlike negotiated debt settlements, student loans may be included in consolidation orders under the Orderly Payment of Debt program. Student loans are often one of the outstanding obligations of debtors.

The services of the Board are free to people across the province. Over 500 people contacted the office for help on various debt-related problems in 2009-10. The debtors are counselled to develop better budgeting habits to manage their debts themselves, and advised of programs for payment of debt and of bankruptcy, as is appropriate. Payments are channelled through the Board, with the program returning over $650,000 to the credit industry in 2009-10 on behalf of debtors.

The number of people assisted by personal debt repayment plans decreased significantly, continuing a trend over the previous years. With a healthy economy, the number of people needing assistance continues to drop. Regardless, there is still a need to provide programs to counsel debtors and to provide programs for the payment of debts.

The Board works with problem gambling treatment programs and receives referrals. To offer guidance to individuals in resolving the financial fallout that accompanies the addiction, presentations are provided about four times a year to the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region Problem Gambling Day Treatment Program. The counsellor also provides two presentations a year to the John Howard Society.

Municipal Tax Enforcement

Municipalities require the Board's consent to complete tax enforcement proceedings under *The Tax Enforcement Act.* Upon receiving an application from a municipality, the Board contacts the landowner to establish a plan for the taxpayer to pay the arrears of taxes. If the taxpayer does not agree to a reasonable plan for payment of the tax arrears, or defaults on payment, the Board grants its consent. That allows the municipality to deal with the taxpayer directly and to take title to the land, if the municipality so decides.

Provincial Mediation Board
2009-10 Statistics

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Debt Repayment Files Opened	72	55	28
Files Active at Year End	366	260	211
Payments Received from Debtors for Creditors (thousands)	$1,628	$1,080	$755
Administrative Levy for Province from Debt Mediation	$238,953	$169,312	$104,815
Counselling Services Only	100	133	109
Notices of Mortgage Foreclosure/Cancellation of Agreement for Sale	462	428	547
Tax Enforcement Files Opened	712	544	534
Tax Enforcement Fees Received in Year	$18,580	$16,715	$15,075

Mortgage Foreclosures

The Board receives a Notice of Intention to Foreclose in advance of every proposed foreclosure action. The proposed plaintiff cannot start a court action for 30 days, during which the Board notifies the mortgagee. When asked by the mortgagee, the Board provides information on foreclosure procedures and discusses options that may be available to the mortgagee to deal with arrears and avoid court.

Board Members

- Dale Beck, Chair, Regina
- F. Andrea M. Jorde, Saskatoon

Legislative and Budgetary Authorities

Governing legislation:

- *The Provincial Mediation Board Act*
- *The Tax Enforcement Act*
- *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act*
- *The Agricultural Leaseholds Act*
- *The Land Titles Act*
- *The Rural Municipality Act*
- *The Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (Canada)
- *The Landlord and Tenant Act*

2009-10 Budget:	$439,000
FTEs:	7
2009-10 Actual:	$382,000
2010-11 Budget:	$317,000
FTEs:	5

The budget was under-spent as one employee has been absent on leave without pay during most of the fiscal year. For 2010-11, one position was transferred to the Office of Residential Tenancies and one position was eliminated.

Office of Residential Tenancies

The Office of Residential Tenancies adjudicates disputes between landlords and tenants in residential tenancies. In addition, information counsellors provide information to landlords and tenants about their rights and obligations.

Legislative and Budgetary Authorities

Governing legislation:

- *The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*
- *The Condominium Property Act, 1993*
- *The Co-operatives Act, 1996*

The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006 was proclaimed into force March 1, 2007. Since then, there has been pressure on rent and on vacancy rates in the province.

- The legislation was reviewed in 2008-09 and legislative changes were put into place to address these issues and reduce the workload associated with the administration of security deposits.

The Office also has jurisdiction under *The Condominium Property Act, 1993* to evict from condominium associations occupants who disturb other occupants and under *The Co-operatives Act, 1996* to evict persons whose membership in a housing co-operative is revoked.

2009-10 Budget:	$788,000
FTEs:	9.6
2009-10 Actual:	$753,000

The Office of Residential Tenancies and the Provincial Mediation Board share space and have a manager in common. The 2009-10 budget variance reflects savings on a position that was vacant for most of the fiscal year, a reduction in liability for vacation leave, and a need for more hearing officers to meet the demands for hearings.

For 2010-11, one FTE was transferred from the Office to the Board to better reflect the nature of the work done by the employee.

2010-11 Budget:	$808,000
FTEs:	10.6

Per Diem Hearing Officers: 7
Director: Dale Beck, Regina
Deputy Directors: Andrea Jorde and Terry Hymers, Saskatoon

Progress in 2009-10

It is an ongoing objective of the Office to provide the public with prompt decisions and quick access to its services. Maintaining this standard continues to be a challenge.

- The Office received nearly 10,000 applications during the fiscal year and conducted an estimated 5,000 hearings.
  - Most hearings are scheduled within 40 days of application, and most decisions are normally rendered within 40 days of a hearing.
  - Eviction and emergency cases are scheduled within six business days and most are decided within two business days.
- The toll-free telephone number receives over 60,000 calls per year. The calls are handled by one information counsellor in the Regina office and two information counsellors in the Saskatoon office. The counsellors also handle about 5,000 walk-in enquiries annually between the Regina and Saskatoon offices and respond to enquiries through the website.

2010-11 Goals and Objectives

It is an objective of the Office to substantially increase the information on its website during 2010-11 and to organize that information in a manner that makes it more accessible to users.

This is expected to:

- reduce the number of enquiries;
- increase the frequency with which callers will reach a counsellor directly and not have to leave a voice message; and
- reduce the time that callers must wait for their calls to be returned.

To improve the exchange of information between landlords and tenants during the coming year, the Office also looks to incorporate electronic communication between landlords and tenants and with the Office. To achieve its objective, the Office will encourage e-mail communication between landlords and tenants to the extent permitted by *The Electronic Information and Documents Act, 2000.*

The Office must continue to adapt to changing market conditions and practices. The prosperity that the province is experiencing affects the rental market. The complexity of hearings has increased and adds pressure on the Office to promptly hear applications and deliver timely and effective decisions. Poor communication between landlords and tenants contributes to disputes. Facilitating communication between landlords and tenants, and documenting that communication, could reduce misunderstandings and provide better evidence for consideration by a hearing officer. Improved communication will serve to:

- avoid disputes altogether;
- help in advance of hearings to resolve disputes or at least to focus the parties on the real issues; and
- better prepare parties for hearings so that they can provide the information necessary for the hearing officers to understand the case and make good decisions.

Office of Residential Tenancies
2009-10 Statistics

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Total Applications Received	10,654	9,811	9,756
Landlord Applications	9,844	8,947	8,770
Tenant Applications	810	864	986
Fees	$272,245	$269,642	$190,935

As at June 1, 2009, the tenant security deposit application fees were waived. This change is reflected in the total fees received for 2009-10.

Appendix C: Revolving Funds

Queen's Printer

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, the Queen's Printer publishes and distributes all legislation, regulations, and other government legislative publications, including:

- *The Saskatchewan Gazette*;
- tables to Saskatchewan Statutes and Regulations;
- the Saskatchewan *Rules of Court* (for the Court of Queen's Bench and the Court of Appeal);
- private Acts;
- bound annual statutes; and
- the complete set, as well as practice-specific sets, of the consolidated *Statutes of Saskatchewan* and *Regulations of Saskatchewan*.

Legislative and Budgetary Authorities

Under the authority of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General and the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and subject to *The Queen's Printer's Act* and *The Queen's Printer's Fees Regulations*, the Queen's Printer is part of the Public Law Division of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General.

The Queen's Printer operates through the Queen's Printer Revolving Fund and sells its legislative publications and services to achieve the Fund's break-even mandate. Significantly self-funded, the Queen's Printer is provided an appropriation from the General Revenue Fund in order to be able to provide free access to all current electronic publications at the Internet websites of **www.qp.gov.sk.ca** (Freelaw®) and **www.publications.gov.sk.ca** (Publications Centre).

The main users of paper and electronic publications include:

- municipal/provincial/federal governments;
- law offices;
- colleges/universities;
- industry-specific groups (e.g., associations and oil and gas companies);
- libraries; and
- business/corporate entities.

Queen's Printer Financial Summary

	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget	2009-10* Actual (unaudited)
Revenue	$ 643,444	$ 722,751	$ 717,771	$ 828,248	$ 692,000	$ 849,069
Expenditures						
Cost of Goods Sold	$ 236,750	$ 245,819	$ 241,273	$ 267,504	$ 221,000	$ 301,405
Gross Profit/(Loss)	$ 406,694	$ 476,932	$ 476,498	$ 560,744	$ 471,000	$ 547,664
Administrative Expenses	518,147	580,509	630,647	611,027	588,000	616,285
Net Profit/(Loss)	$ (111,453)	$ (103,577)	$ (154,149)	$ (50,283)	$ (117,000)	$ (68,621)
GRF Subsidy	125,145	159,000	148,000	65,000	98,000	75,000
Net Profit/(Loss) after Subsidy	**$ 13,692**	**$ 55,423**	**$ (6,149)**	**$ 14,717**	**$ (19,000)**	**$ 6,379**

* Audited financial information is not available from the Provincial Auditor as of the date this report was prepared, but will be provided in the 2010-11 Ministry of Justice and Attorney General Annual Report.

The budget appropriation was based on what appeared to be a downward trend from the previous two years. The first two quarters supported our initial projections. Accordingly, we severely reduced expenditures (e.g., we cut back on office supplies and kept positions vacant) despite being required to lease a more expensive copier for on-demand printing.

However, in the third quarter, our paper sales of legislation increased sharply; the Province of Manitoba confirmed their commitment to our hosting their publications; targeted marketing resulted in some sales; and we found economies in our production of file backs for the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, and of Law Enforcement Handbooks for municipal police forces and the RCMP. Online sales were also steady.

FTEs: 9

2009-10 Goals and Objectives

- Continue posting edited historical legislation and Order in Council (OC) summaries to Freelaw®.
- Establish process for online forms with payments through the Publications Centre.
- Scan more historical legislation by statute revision volumes for eventual posting to Freelaw®.
- Update the Freelaw® and Publications Centre websites.
- Continue to market Publications Centre by attending trade shows and sponsoring relevant industry and business events.
- Continue to promote and sponsor various related professional agencies (e.g., Financial Management Institute) by preparing materials for professional development seminars.
- Work closely with various client groups to improve the quality of the publications services we provide.
- Continue to communicate with provincial, federal and territorial Queen's Printers to ensure that legislation and publishing services are consistent with industry and technological standards and best practices.

2009-10 Activities and Results

- Continually added historical legislation, OC summaries and point-in-time consolidations to Freelaw®.
  - There are hundreds of thousands of pages of legislation subject to the process required to post them to the Publications Centre, and posting occurs daily.
  - All OC summaries, backdated to November 2007, have been posted to the Publications Centre and continue to be posted on a weekly basis.
  - Point-in-time consolidations are complete acts and regulations as they existed at passage and as they existed at each amendment stage thereafter. Only those passed since 1996 are added.
- Began preliminary work with the ministries of Agriculture, and Justice and Attorney General, on a voluntary basis, to establish process for online forms with payment. Production is anticipated in 2010-11. Also began preliminary discussions with the ministries of Environment and Information Services Corporation.
- Scanned all of 1920, 1930, 1940 and most of 1978 statute revision volumes.
- Data clean-up, new server and software enhancements done for Freelaw® and Publications Centre in preparation for updated website.

- Marketed the Publications Centre, including Freelaw®, through attendance at conferences.
- Continued promoting and sponsoring various related professional agencies (e.g., Canadian Bar Association mid-winter meeting) by providing materials and speaker.
- Continued to work co-operatively in partnership with all participants, in and outside of the provincial government, to deliver the Publications Centre, which now has 89 partner agencies, municipalities and associations.
- Worked with Queen's Printers from other provinces who contacted Saskatchewan for assistance in delivering electronic publications with common standards.
- Reduced appropriation received from the General Revenue Fund, working toward being a self-sufficient revolving fund.

Queen's Printer Subscription Statistics

Subscriptions to Publication/Service	2004-05 Actual	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Actual
Statutes of Saskatchewan Bound Volume	111	105	204	198	196	177
The Saskatchewan Gazette	345	325	287	273	261	232
Loose-leaf Statutes	257	245	328	320	305	287
Loose-leaf Regulations	98	90	106	103	100	92
Separate Chapters	61	58	86	53	74	62
Tables	201	186	221	211	195	185
Rules of Court (English/French)	232/0	229/0	417/0	361/1	359/1	344/2
Loose-leaf Oil and Gas	82	82	122	119	119	110
Loose-leaf Mining	20	20	25	27	27	27
Loose-leaf Rural Municipality	238	234	250	249	224	216
Loose-leaf Urban Municipality	323	315	308	308	292	278

Victims Services

Victims Services has the primary responsibility for assisting victims involved in the criminal justice system in Saskatchewan. Victims have needs directly related to their involvement in the criminal justice system, which may include:

- information on the justice system and assistance as they proceed through the criminal justice process;
- compensation to offset expenses directly resulting from violent crime; and
- an opportunity to tell the court how they have been affected by the crime.

Victims of reported crime, those who come to the attention of the justice system, are the first priority of the program. Initiatives for victims of unreported crime and at-risk individuals are also considered important and are supported to the extent that resources are available. Special emphasis is placed on meeting the needs of more vulnerable individuals, such as children and persons with disabilities, as well as Aboriginal people, who are disproportionately victimized by crime.

In order to ensure basic services are available to meet the needs of victims of crime throughout Saskatchewan, Victims Services offers a range of direct programs and services which are outlined in this report. Underlying these direct services are other initiatives that improve understanding and increase awareness of the needs of victims, and help ensure a comprehensive and co-operative response. These other initiatives include:

- education and training;
- coordination of services;
- research and evaluation initiatives; and
- prevention of victimization programming.

Legislative and Budgetary Authorities

The governing legislation of the Victims Services Program is *The Victims of Crime Act, 1995* and *The Victims of Crime Regulations, 1997*. The *Declaration of Principles Respecting the Treatment of Victims of Crime*, which is included within the Act, outlines the principles with respect to the treatment of victims that are to be followed by persons working within Saskatchewan's justice system.

The Victims' Fund, which was established by this legislation, is the primary support for services for victims of crime. This is a special purpose fund that predominantly comprises revenue from victim surcharges that are paid by offenders on federal and provincial offences.

Victims' Fund Revenue and Expenditures

	2009-10 Budget	2009-10 Actual (unaudited)
Revenue	$ 6,163	$ 8,247
Expenditures	$ 6,382	$ 5,718

Revenue in 2009-10 was over budget by $2.1 million, due mainly to increased imposition and collection of federal and provincial surcharges, as well as the receipt of federal project funding and interest revenue.

Expenditures in 2009-10 were $664,000 under budget, due to unanticipated savings in several program areas and funded agencies (staff vacancies, delayed program start dates, etc.).

Victims Services Staffing

Total FTE Establishment	
Administration	6.5
Compensation	2.0
Restitution	6.0
Victim/Witness Support	6.5
Training & Interpersonal Violence Manager	1.0
Total FTEs	**22.0**

2009-10 Goals and Objectives

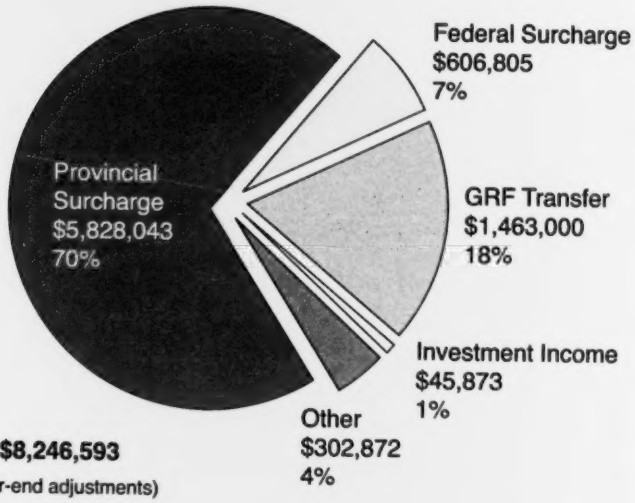
- Effectively manage the Victims' Fund by monitoring revenue and expenditures and exploring avenues to increase revenue; obtain federal project funding where possible.
- Work with Court Services Branch to finalize and implement a plan to facilitate testimony from outside the courtroom for children and other vulnerable witnesses.
- Work with Fine Collection Branch to support the development of the new Restitution Civil Enforcement Project (RCEP) pilot. Under the RCEP pilot, victims in the Regina and Yorkton areas can voluntarily register their restitution orders. On behalf of these victims, Collection Officers in the Fine Collection Branch then use civil enforcement measures to attempt to collect monies owed to the victims.
- Participate on the planning committee for the Northern Responses and Approaches to Victims of Crime national conference in Yellowknife, NT; coordinate attendance by victim services program staff from northern Saskatchewan.
- Collaborate with the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons; work with police and police-based victim services to develop a protocol for referrals from police to victim services in missing person cases.
- Address the recommendations from the Evaluation of Saskatchewan's Children Exposed to Domestic Abuse Programs Final Report that was released in June 2008, by developing a program guide and set of standards for Children Exposed to Violence programs.
- Continue working with the RCMP and Justice Canada to identify solutions to the issue of access to information by RCMP-based Victim Services programs.
- Provide governance support to boards and staff of non-profit agencies delivering police-based victim services; facilitate workshops and provide tools upon request to assist boards to transition to a policy governance model.

2009-10 Activities and Results

Financial Management/Administration

- Total revenue for 2009-10 was $8,246,593. This amount includes surcharges, surcharge receivables, General Revenue Fund transfer, interest, proceeds of crime and other miscellaneous revenue. Expenditures for 2009-10 totalled $5,718,335. These figures are unaudited and do not include all year-end adjustments. The audited financial statements for the Victims' Fund will be included with the Public Accounts at July 31, 2010.
- Revenue increased by approximately $1.7 million over 2008-09. This was due to the annualized revenue increase resulting from the increased provincial surcharge rates that came into effect July 1, 2008; enhanced surcharge collection efforts undertaken by Fine Collection Branch; federal funding; and a number of unanticipated one-time increases. Aside from the increase in the rate of the provincial surcharge, it is too early to determine whether the overall revenue increase is the beginning of a long-term trend, or only a short-term variance.
- Monitored provincial and federal victim surcharge imposition and collection, as well as investment of the Victims' Fund to maximize revenue.
- Obtained federal project funding totalling approximately $300,000 for: the Northern Program Manager Project; the Domestic Violence Victim Caseworker Project as part of the Regina Domestic Violence Court; the Child-friendly Court Project; the Northern Conference Project (for attendance by northern program staff at a national northern victim services conference); and the Children Exposed to Violence Consultant Project.

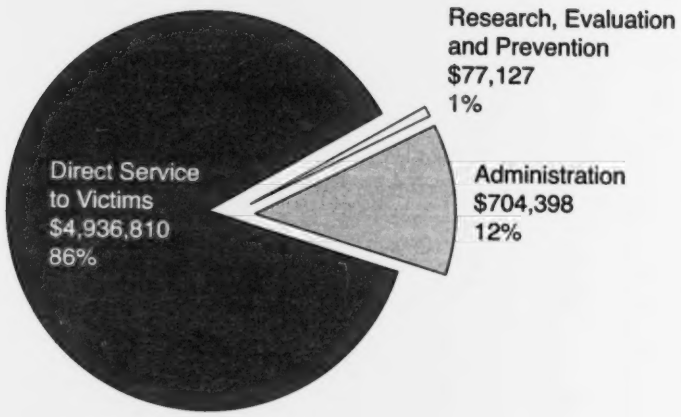
Victims Services
2009-10 Actual Revenues – Unaudited



Total Revenue – $8,246,593

(Does not include year-end adjustments)

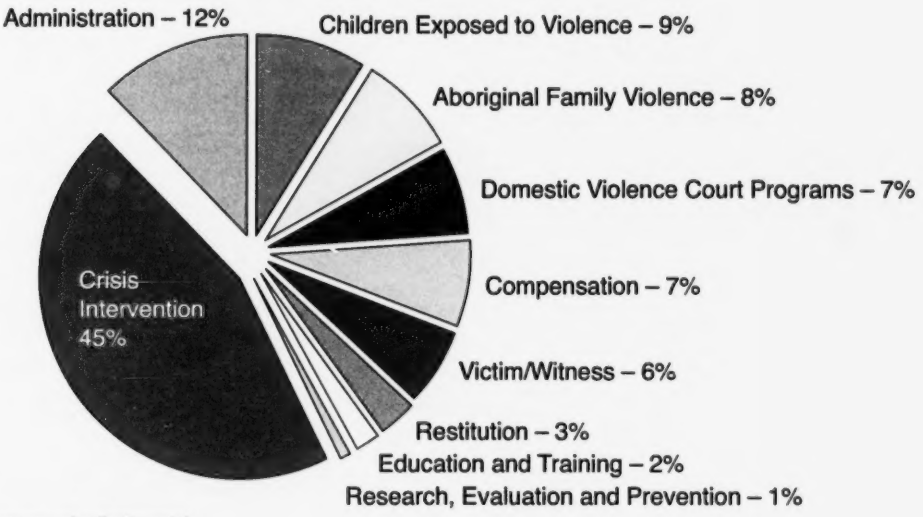
Victims Services
2009-10 Actual Expenditures – Unaudited



Total Expenditures – $5,718,335

(Does not include year-end adjustments)
(May not equal 100% due to rounding)

Victims Services
2009-10 Actual Expenditures (%) – Unaudited


Administration – 12%
Children Exposed to Violence – 9%
Aboriginal Family Violence – 8%
Domestic Violence Court Programs – 7%
Compensation – 7%
Victim/Witness – 6%
Restitution – 3%
Education and Training – 2%
Research, Evaluation and Prevention – 1%
Crisis Intervention 45%

(Does not include year-end adjustments)

- Conducted financial audits of funded programs, worked with specific programs to resolve management and financial issues, and trained program staff in the use of financial management software to enable them to have the knowledge to assume responsibility for their finances in the future.

- Administered federal proceeds of crime (POC) monies that were deposited into the Victims' Fund, with payment of these funds to police agencies as designated for anti-organized crime and crime prevention activities. Maintained provincial POC monies in the Victims' Fund; followed an approved multi-year plan for the expenditure of these monies on specific programs for victims of crime.

Police-based Victim Services

- Managed funding agreements with 18 community agencies and municipal police services to ensure that services are available to 87 per cent of Saskatchewan's population. This includes 18 Police-based Victim Services programs, and six Aboriginal Resource Officer programs that are part of the local victim services teams.

Specialized Victim Services

- Managed funding for seven specialized victim services programs in urban centres, where client volume and unique needs require a different delivery model to meet demands. This includes programs for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, including services associated with domestic violence courts in the Battlefords, Saskatoon and Regina.

Aboriginal Initiatives

- Managed funding for six Aboriginal Family Violence programs and six Aboriginal Resource Officer programs.

Children Exposed to Violence Programming

- Managed ongoing funding for nine Children Exposed to Violence programs. Supported the new programs in La Ronge and the Buffalo Narrows area as they began operations.

Prevention of Victimization Programming

- Managed ongoing funding for the Street Workers Advocacy Program in Regina.

Victim/Witness Services

- Continued to offer court orientation and support to children and other vulnerable witnesses who are required to testify in court. Services are provided province-wide by four programs located in the offices of Regional Crown Prosecutors.
- In partnership with Court Services Branch, finalized a plan to facilitate the testimony by children and other vulnerable witnesses from outside of courtrooms. Obtained federal funding for new video-conferencing equipment that was purchased, and is to be installed early in 2010-11.

Victims Compensation Program

- Provided compensation totalling $375,325 to 449 victims, to reimburse them for actual expenses resulting from crimes of personal violence.

Adult Restitution Program

- Monitored and helped to enforce court-ordered restitution for adult offenders, advised victims of available civil enforcement measures and the registration process, and conducted training of criminal justice system professionals. The program monitored 834 new restitution files in 2009-10, either directly through the Restitution Coordinator or in conjunction with Probation Services.
- Worked closely with Fine Collection Branch to assist in the development of the new Restitution Civil Enforcement Project pilot.

Victim/Witness Services – New Clients

	Males			Females			Total		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Children	46	50	30	75	74	96	121	124	126
Teens	92	93	48	189	169	152	281	262	199
Adults	49	71	75	239	273	290	288	344	367
Total	**187**	**214**	**153**	**503**	**516**	**538**	**690**	**730**	**691**

Victims Compensation Statistics

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Applications Received	418	401	404	486
Applications Approved	380	373	372	449
Applications Denied	38	28	32	37
Total Amount Awarded	$397,108	$355,821	$315,358	$375,325
Average Award	$1,045	$954	$848	$835

Education and Training

- Obtained funding from Justice Canada, and coordinated the attendance of 14 victim services providers from northern Saskatchewan at the Northern Responses and Approaches to Victims of Crime: Building on Strength and Resilience national conference in Yellowknife, NT. The Director of Victims Services Branch served as co-chair of the conference planning committee.

- Organized a one-day training session for staff of the 18 Police-based Victim Services programs, as part of a two-day conference organized in partnership with RCMP "F" Division and the Saskatchewan Association of Police Affiliated Victim Services Inc.

- Organized a two-day training session with the nine Children Exposed to Violence programs. Did so to ensure use of best practices in programming, provide education and encourage strategy development in response to an increasing number of immigrant and refugee children as clients.

- Contracted with SIAST Wascana Campus and assisted in delivering the fifth course of the standardized basic training program for Police-based Victim Services programs service-delivery staff. Victims Services also continued to work with SIAST and provided input for consideration of this course for approval as an applied certificate program.

- Provided Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) certification training and follow-up support for personnel of victim services program staff and domestic violence court programs, including facilitation of two training sessions. Worked in partnership with the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing in providing provincial oversight for ODARA quality assurance activities.

- Provided ongoing governance support to boards and staff of non-profit agencies delivering police-based victim services, focusing on board roles and core responsibilities related to policy governance, operational oversight and leadership. Assisted two Police-based Victim Services boards to move to a policy governance model, by developing governance manuals and facilitating weekend workshops that allowed board members to review their governance manuals and policies prior to adoption.

- Delivered three training sessions on the Justice Response to Domestic Violence to municipal police members at the Saskatchewan Police College, and five sessions to police members and staff of the Moose Jaw Police Service.

- Delivered presentations on the needs of victims and available programs and supports to Victims Services funded agencies, various groups of criminal justice system personnel, including police recruits at the Saskatchewan Police College and the RCMP Academy, and at conferences and workshops.

- Provided financial support to the Touchwood File Hills Qu'Appelle (TFHQ) Safe Shelter Inc. for the Creating Strength and Making Change through Supporting, Connecting, Evolving conference in Regina during National Victims of Crime Awareness Week 2009.

- Coordinated Saskatchewan's activities during National Victims of Crime Awareness Week 2009 to raise awareness of the needs of victims, inform the public about services that are available, and recognize the nearly 300 volunteers who assisted in providing services to victims of crime through police-based programs. Special recognition was given to 10-, 15- and 20-year volunteers. Began planning for the next annual week to be held in April 2010.

- Distributed over 12,000 copies of brochures, posters, fact sheets, bookmarks and other educational material to government offices, criminal justice system and community agencies, and to individuals; made all brochures publicly available on the branch website.

Coordination

- In response to an identified need for improved supports for survivors of homicide victims, initiated discussions with Greystone Bereavement Centre (GBC), resulting in the development of a working group consisting of GBC, Victims Services Branch, Regina Region Victim Services Inc., and a family survivor of homicide. This work resulted in the initiation by GBC of an ongoing monthly support group that is open to survivors of homicide from anywhere in Saskatchewan.

- In response to recommendations from the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons (PPCMP) Final Report, partnered with the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police and representatives of Police-based Victim Services programs to develop a protocol for referrals of families of missing persons from police to victim services. Victims Services Branch also joined the PPCMP and participated in meetings with families of missing persons.

- Coordinated the development of a referral protocol for victims/witnesses who are children, vulnerable, or otherwise needing support and assistance in relation to testifying in court. Representatives of Victim/Witness Services and Police-based Victim Services programs developed the protocol to ensure appropriate referrals and coordination of services in these cases province-wide.

- In response to the recommendation from the Evaluation of Saskatchewan's Children Exposed to Domestic Abuse Programs Final Report, Victims Services obtained funding from Justice Canada for the Children Exposed to Violence (CEV) Consultant Project. Contracted with Catholic Family Services of Saskatoon to develop a program guide and set of standards for CEV programs, and to provide additional support and guidance to the programs.

- Provided financial support to the Saskatchewan Association of Police Affiliated Victim Services Inc. (SAPAVS) to assist with administrative expenses.

- Met regularly with RCMP "F" Division Community Services and representatives of SAPAVS to discuss and address issues of mutual concern.

- Continued to work with RCMP (national headquarters and "F" Division) and Justice Canada on the development of processes to address privacy concerns, and to ensure that victims continue to be referred to local Police-based Victim Services programs.

- Participated on various boards of Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) and RESOLVE Saskatchewan. RESOLVE is a tri-prairie research network that coordinates and supports research aimed at ending interpersonal violence and abuse. Participated as a member of the planning committee for RESOLVE Research Day 2009, which was held in Regina.

- Participated on interministry committees on interpersonal violence and abuse.

- Represented Saskatchewan at two meetings of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Victims Issues; co-chaired the Sub-committee on Aboriginal Victimization.

- Participated in the second meeting of the Restitution Working Group established by Justice Canada, presenting on Saskatchewan's unique approaches to enforcing and collecting restitution owed to victims of crime.

Research and Evaluation

- Collected and monitored regular qualitative and quantitative reporting from all funded agencies.

- Supported the Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch in the administration of an ongoing evaluation of Police-based Victim Services client satisfaction.

Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund

The Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund is a special purpose fund governed by *The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2009* and *The Seizure of Criminal Property Regulations, 2009* to:

- receive all revenue related to the sale of property forfeited under the Act;
- offset the costs related to bringing forward applications for forfeiture order and for managing and selling forfeited assets, and
- utilize surplus funds to benefit victims of crime and enhance police operations.

On July 1, 2009, the Act and Regulations came into effect, and the Fund was established.

2009-10 Goals and Objectives

- Utilize monies, generated by the seizure of criminal property and that exceed the costs of administration, to benefit victims of crime and to enhance police operations. Work toward this goal in 2009-10 by:
  - appointing a director and an asset manager;
  - establishing processes and procedures to enforce the Act and Regulations; and
  - working with other stakeholders to implement established processes and procedures.

2009-10 Activities and Results

- The Minister of Justice and Attorney General appointed Mr. Dave Tulloch as both Director and Asset Manager. Mr. Jeff Markewich was appointed as both Deputy Director and Deputy Asset Manager.
- Officials of the Civil Law Division of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (CPSP), and the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund established processes and procedures to enforce the Act and Regulations. CPSP prepares files and evidence for review by the Director, and prepares court applications for review by Civil Law. Civil Law brings applications to court on behalf of the Director to obtain forfeiture orders.
- In February 2010, CPSP's Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) investigation unit hired a Director of Seizure of Criminal Property. This position was created by CPSP to help communicate the processes and procedures to policing agencies. The position also plays a fundamental role in working with policing agencies and SCAN in obtaining the information required to bring forward files to make applications for forfeiture order.
- A vehicle was forfeited to the Crown pursuant to section 186 of *The Traffic Safety Act*. The vehicle was sold and the Fund received $841.37 in revenue.

Appendix D: Key Contact Information

Access and Privacy
1020 - 1874 Scarth Street
Regina, SK S4P 4B3
Phone: (306) 787-5473 Fax: (306) 798-4064
E-mail: accessprivacyjustice@gov.sk.ca

Aboriginal Courtworker Program
600 - 1874 Scarth Street
Regina, SK S4P 4B3
Phone: (306) 787-6467 Fax: (306) 787-0078
National Website: **www.courtworker.com**

Automobile Injury Appeal Commission
500 - 2400 College Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 1C8
Phone: (306) 798-5545 Fax: (306) 798-5540
Toll-free: 1-866-798-5544

Commissioner for Oaths and Notary Public
1010 - 1874 Scarth Street
Regina, SK S4P 4B3
Phone: (306) 787-4117 Fax: (306) 787-8737

Consumer Protection Branch
1919 Saskatchewan Drive, Suite 500
Regina, SK S4P 4H2
Phone: (306) 787-5550 Fax: (306) 787-9779
Toll-free: 1-888-374-4636 (Saskatchewan only)

Corporations Branch
1871 Smith Street, 2nd Floor
Regina, SK S4P 4W5
Phone: (306) 787-2962 Fax: (306) 787-8999
E-mail: corporationsjustice@gov.sk.ca

Dispute Resolution Office
3085 Albert Street, 3rd Floor
Regina, SK S4S 0B1
Phone: (306) 787-5747 Fax: (306) 787-0088
E-mail: disputeresolutionjustice@gov.sk.ca

Family Justice Services Branch
3085 Albert Street, Room 100
Regina, SK S4S 0B1
Phone: (306) 787-8961 Fax: (306) 787-1420
Toll-free: 1-866-229-9712 (outside of Regina area)
E-mail: meoinquiry@gov.sk.ca

Family Law Information Centre
Phone: (306) 787-5837 Fax: (306) 787-0107
Toll-free: 1-888-218-2822 (Saskatchewan only)

Human Rights Commission
Suite 816, Sturdy Stone Building
122 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2H6
Phone: (306) 933-5952 Fax: (306) 933-7863
Telewriter: 306-373-2119
Toll-free: 1-800-667-9249 (Saskatchewan only)

Legal Aid Saskatchewan
502 - 201 21st Street East
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2H6
Phone: (306) 933-5300 Fax: (306) 933-6764
Toll-free: 1-800-667-3764
E-mail: central@legalaid.sk.ca

Office of Residential Tenancies
Toll-free Numbers (Saskatchewan only):
Phone: 1-888-215-2222
Fax: 1-888-867-7776

- ***Regina Office***
  120 - 2151 Scarth Street
  Regina, SK S4P 2H8
  Phone: (306) 787-2699 Fax: (306) 787-5574

  A drop box is located at the front door

- ***Saskatoon Office***
  Main Floor, Sturdy Stone Building
  122 3rd Avenue North
  Saskatoon, SK S7K 2H6
  Phone: (306) 933-5680 Fax: (306) 933-7030

  A drop box is located outside the office
  on the 22nd Street side

Provincial Mediation Board
Toll-free Numbers (Saskatchewan only):
Phone: 1-877-787-5408 (Regina)
Phone: 1-888-215-2222 (Saskatoon)
Fax: 1-888-867-7776

- ***Regina Office***
  120 - 2151 Scarth Street
  Regina, SK S4P 2H8

  Debt Management and Credit Counselling
  and Property Tax Enforcement Inquiry:
  Phone: (306) 787-5387 Fax: (306) 787-5574

- ***Saskatoon Office***
  Main Floor, Sturdy Stone Building
  105 - 122 3rd Avenue North
  Saskatoon, SK S7K 2H6

  Debt Management and Credit Counselling Inquiry:
  Phone: (306) 933-6520 Fax: (306) 933-7030

Public Guardian and Trustee
100 - 1871 Smith Street
Regina, SK S4P 4W4
Phone: (306) 787-5424 Fax: 787-5065
Toll-free: 1-877-787-5424
E-mail: pgt@gov.sk.ca

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(Closed for the noon hour and holidays)

Victims Services Branch
610 - 1874 Scarth Street
Regina, SK S4P 4B3
Phone: (306) 787-3500 Fax: (306) 787-0081
Toll-free: 1-888-286-6664
TTY Phone Number: 1-866-445-8857